New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements

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Disarmament

Instead of resenting or opposing an expression from Congress concerning disarmament President Harding publicly welcomes it, and thus ends one insinuation to which he has been meanly subjected.

It is, of course, not in the power of Congress to initiate or to conduct foreign negotiations. But at times Congress is a representative mass meeting of the nation, and its resolutions, although of no binding legal effect, have value. In the present instance it is prudent to have Congress firmly commit itself to the disarmament principle. This will not only give the President confidence in going ahead, but will lessen the danger of the rejection of any plan he may recommend.

The Tribune, long recognizing that some solution of the armament problem is essential if there is to be any stabilization of peace, has greatly coveted for America the honor of taking the lead in the calling of a conference. Such action, consonant with American ideals, is a particular service this country seems best fitted to perform for the world. President Harding has refused to hurry. He has carefully canvassed existing conditions and in due time he has spoken.

Disarmament to some degree is needed not only to lift material burdens, but for deeper reasons—to satisfy a spiritual world-hunger and to pay respect to the memory of those who perished in the Great War. If it can be said when the conference adjourns that at last a beginning has been made and the seed of future progress planted then the dead will have an added glory.

But let us beware of trusting too much to the leadership of pacifist perfectionists. Such are a pest. It will not be easy to find a common denominator and even less easy to arrange varying numerators. The problem bristles with difficulties. Germany, though at present nominally disarmed, is still a menace, and well-armed Russia openly threatens trouble. But with a proper will a way may be found. At least an effort is well worth making.

Rival nations have been cynically compared to fellow travelers in a wood, each armed and each suspiciously watching the other. The world is not at one stroke to get rid of this habit. No good result will come from intoxicating ourselves with vague sentimentalism, or from dwelling solely on what should be. But it will help much if the two travelers, as a result of friendly talk, each draws a bullet from his pistol and throws it away. It will mark the birth of a new spirit of trust, and trust grows and subdues distrust when given a chance.

American Shipbuilding

A British oil transport company that formerly placed all its orders at home found construction so slow in England that it contracted for six tankers from American shipyards. The reason was the post-war paralysis in Britain, coupled with rising costs, whereas in America shipbuilders had declining costs. The results have been so satisfactory, both as to quality and as to speed of delivery, that other orders are likely to come to America.

Great Britain has long been the acknowledged leader in ship construction, but, thanks largely to the war, American shipbuilders have developed speed and efficiency in construction and improvement in design for economical operation. Our yards, says George J. Baldwin, chairman of the American Shipbuilding Corporation, attract the best type of workmen by high wages, give them the most modern tools to work with and can now successfully meet the competition of low-wage countries by the greater speed, and therefore lowered unit cost, of production. "The result is," he states, "that the best American yards can now turn out ships capable of the most economical operation and can deliver them with a promptness which is a valuable asset in the calculations of the owner or operator."

As yet, of course, it can hardly be said that American post-war shipbuilding seriously threatens the English. But the potential ability to do so is here. America now has a large available supply of skilled shipbuilders. It has plenty of yards. It has the engineers. And for the present, at least, it is not handicapped in the matter of coal and iron as is England.

Making Prohibition Obnoxious

The principal feature of the Volstead jr. bill, as it is called, a measure for a stricter enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment, is a declaration that beer is not medicine and is not to be prescribed as such by physicians.

The medical faculty has long debated the therapeutic value of malt beverages, some of its members holding to one view and some to the other. Now Congress, assuming the rôle of medical supreme court, is to settle the issue. To be respectful to it hereafter the national legislature should be spoken of as Dr. Congress. Its members, except for a few, are innocent of acquaintance with *materia medica*, but what they lack in knowledge they make up in the courage of ignorance.

A foundation is laid for other announcements from time to time as to what is medicinal. And when the Congressional pharmacopœia is complete possibly other matters of disputed scientific fact will be adjudicated. It seems time for the present to cease gibing at the past by reference to the famous bull against the comet or to the demand on Galileo to recant his statement that the earth moves.

But the new bill offends many prohibitionists for other reasons than its particular contents. It seems to manifest a spirit which bodes no good to prohibition. The history of sumptuary legislation shows that it has commonly broken down when made too severe. When statutes are piled on statutes resistance, instead of being weakened, is strengthened, and ultimately the whole law is ignored. For a long period Massachusetts Bay added enactment to enactment to establish certain Puritanic ideals of conduct. The labor came to naught. Because of the lawlessness of early New England? On the contrary, judged in a comparative way, it was most law-abiding.

With respect to the Eighteenth Amendment, it is idle to try to end argument by referring to the sacredness of the law. Practical human factors must always be taken into account. Prohibition radicals may be zealous, but they are poor friends of the cause they champion. If allowed their ungoverned way it is possible they will create a condition of total nullification in many areas.

Lady Randolph Churchill

The Anglo-American celebrity who has just closed her eyes upon the London scene, leaves behind her some piquant memories. Few international marriages have had the picturesqueness that belonged to Miss Jerome's marriage to Randolph Churchill, a man of ability as well as of eccentricity, who was rapidly making his mark in Parliamentary activity. In marrying him she allied herself with one of England's greatest political personages and shared not only in the glamour that enveloped him, but in the actual momentum of his rising fortunes. The best souvenir of her is a sketch by Sargent, which expresses to the full her vitalized, ebullient personality. It was drawn when she was in her prime, but it shows that if she had lost her girlishness, she had not lost the essential spirit of her youth.

That was characteristic of her for many years, and the fact testifies incidentally to the vivifying power of political interests. She had a good mind and she kept it going. When Lord Randolph Churchill's health failed and he made his melancholy exit from British public affairs, she went with him and lived for a time in the shadow. But when she faced the world alone she took up the political thread where she had dropped it, and as time went on, in watching the meteoric progress of her son Winston, she renewed the atmosphere in which she had lived when her husband was on the crest of the wave. She will not be remembered among the great political ladies of the Victorian era and of the shorter reign which immediately followed. There is no evidence that she excelled as a talker or had that gift of gathering potential political groups which has made the fame of divers English hostesses. She will be reckoned, nevertheless, among the clever women of her period, one of the richly colored temperaments without which London society would have been deprived of some of its charm and distinction.

Once she made a memorable excursion into journalism. Her Anglo-Saxon Review was a gallant quarterly. It was like her to put each number into a new cover, imitating some historic binding. The Review was a periodical de luxe if ever there was one. She printed in its pages a good deal that was lightly ephemeral and a good deal of serious writing by leaders in English letters and politics. It died, ultimately, as such things generally do. The world is too busy to take its magazine reading on such lordly terms. But it had, while it persisted, the value of a proudly liberal gesture.

There were other enkindling gestures in Lady Randolph's spirited passage through the world. One of them was her valiant and humane journey to South Africa at the time of the Boer War. She worked hard and unselfishly in many good causes—notably at the Paignton Hospital—during the World War. She had generous impulses. Perhaps she never exercised any very profound influence upon her surroundings. She did not help, or hinder, the political circle in which she moved. But there was no doubt about her moving in any circle that she touched, a bright, engaging, thoroughly modern soul, likable in her mundane successes, provocative of sympathy when the fates went against her. She was born and bred an American. Americans will read regretfully of her death, and they will recall most of all her youthful dash, her stanchness in the days of Lord Randolph's breakdown, and her unquenchable pluck.

No Buyers' Strike

Comparing the actual sales in May, 1920, of forty-five firms operating fifty-eight representative stores in New York City with the sales in the same establishments in May, this year, the Federal Reserve Bank reports that in dollars the sales fell off 13 per cent. But as to volume the bulletin says:

> "The number of transactions was about 10 per cent greater, and when price changes are taken into consideration it is clear that the volume of merchandise distributed over the counters continues to be larger this year than last."

It goes against current belief to have it shown in such an authoritative way that actual business is heavier than a year ago—that the volume of goods moved is greater. There is little support for pessimism in the figures, or indication of a buyers' strike, or of general distress.

Our Reversible Mayor

When is a friend not a friend? This question, raised at the time the Anti-Saloon League indorsed the Hylan administration's prohibition activities, has at last been answered.

It will be remembered that when Mr. Murphy, of Tammany, was told of the Anti-Saloon League's praise of the Mayor he shook with laughter. "I guess this beats all records," was his comment. But as he and his aids talked it over it became apparent that the matter might not, after all, be such a joke—that some of the unterrified might not be able to understand why the lid was closed down.

For a month, however, they have been satisfied to grumble in private. Now, at last, the Mayor apparently realizes that there are friends and friends, and that it is better to disappoint new ones than to lose old ones. So hip pockets, suitcases, bundles and cellars are once more subject to search only upon warrant or in case of lawful arrest.

Some may call this ingratitude to Brother Anderson, but, after all, Tammany is the real friend whose support must be had, and its braves demand an end of the city administration's flirtation with prohibition.

A Rising Tide

James O. Craig, president of the Business Men's Clearing House of Chicago, remarked the other day that "women stenographers at $35 and $40 a week are replacing former high-priced executives." Almost on the same day a woman won the highest honors in the study of law at Cambridge, England, being at the head of the law tripos over all the men; and in Washington a woman presided over the House of Representatives for the first time in our own history. In this year women made one-fifth of the tax returns in New York State. Our courts, pulpits and departments of government are more and more to be in feminine hands.

In politics women are more practical and seemingly less sentimental and partisan than men. In many communities they are already upsetting old ways and are producing extremely interesting results.

Our sociologists and political economists and other students may have to revise their predictions that equal suffrage would merely double the vote. There is a new psychology at work. It has not yet expressed itself definitely, for the new voters have not hastily reached a conclusion. But in the end the new influence will make itself felt, and a world which in public affairs has represented masculine ideals will be profoundly altered.

The Telltale Voice

The probability that the use of the wireless telephone will soon become general is confirmed by a report made to our Department of Commerce by Consul Wilbur T. Gracey, at Birmingham, England, certain wave-length difficulties and other obstacles having been overcome.

To those who are familiar with the wireless telephone one of the most astonishing things about it is the way in which it reproduces the human voice. It would seem as if the air was a much finer and more accurate medium than the ordinary telephone wire. When one listens to the voice of an unknown person through the air medium the character of that person, his temperament, the quality of his mind or that subtle something that goes to make up the sum total of his personality seems to be revealed even more perfectly than it would be by actual contact.

That this should be so is not unreasonable. Those who have made a study of the voice know that it is an unerring indicator of personality. But in ordinary contact the voice is, so to speak, drowned out by the scenery of the individual, by his gestures, his mannerisms, his appearance—all those protective "properties" which we use to conceal ourselves from others. Who can say, therefore, that the wireless telephone may not introduce a new era into the moralities?

From Passive to Active

Anti-Beer Bill Stirs Mild Anti-Prohibitionist to Protest

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have just arrived in Boston after a trip in Maine, where there is plenty of hard liquor, which I don't care about especially, but no beer or ale, which I enjoy very much.

I purchased a copy of to-day's Tribune at the local hostelry, and the first thing that met my gaze was the headline: "House Passes Anti-Beer Bill; Measure Preventing Use of Beverage by Sick Gets Twenty-One Votes More Than Needed."

This is the limit, Mr. Editor, the last straw! I have been a passive objector to prohibition; from now on I shall join the fight against it.

I have realized the harm done by whisky, I consider the ginmill or the corner an institution we could better get on without. I have passed over the iniquity of minority rule. But if the constitutional amendment is to be followed by laws that will prevent any beverage having more than one-half of 1 per cent of alcohol being used, on the ground that it is intoxicating, and if the drys are going to keep these laws on the statute books and continue to increase taxes to enormous figures to enforce these laws, it is time for citizens who don't believe in these extreme shades of blue and interference with personal rights to get busy and do something.

I think that, being a very busy man, I should continue to let this thing slide if I could get an occasional bottle of 2¾ per cent beer. But we've got to draw the line somewhere and your headline quoted above is as good a line as any.

I'd like a list of the organizations that are working for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, with some notes as to their reliability and effectiveness. I want some advice as to which one to join. E. H. P.

Boston, June 28, 1921.

Canadian Friendliness

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have just returned from a trip to one of the British Columbia mining camps and have found copies of a New York City paper giving the account of Admiral Sims's recent speech in London. As a citizen of New York I want to say that nothing could have pleased me more than the manner in which Admiral Sims handled the Sinn Féin propagandists.

I have now been in Canada some seven weeks, having traveled from Halifax to Prince Rupert, and everywhere I have found the most friendly and sympathetic attitude toward the United States—the only shadow being regrets expressed by Canadians at the attempts of Irish-Americans to embroil our country with Great Britain. I have done my small bit to advise these people that the Irish propaganda in the States is that of a noisy minority and that the majority of Americans pay little attention to it.

It is good that Admiral Sims has brought the matter to a head.

H. S. HOYT.

Prince Rupert, B. C., June 19, 1921.

Noisy Amusement Parks

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Almost every day one picks up the paper to read of some further curtailment of liberty in these our United States.

If the blue law reformers want to effect a reformation which would meet with the hearty approval of a large number of level-headed people they might begin by curtailing the noise and late hours of some of the beach amusement parks adjacent to New York.

The conditions as existing are hard enough to endure for six nights in the week, but the noise goes on just a little more wildly on the seventh till 11:30 p. m. and after.

The air is rent by the shouts of the "hot dog" and peanut venders and every form of ear-splitting noise incidental to the various electrically driven amusement devices common to such places, and all this on the Sabbath.

In spite of our loudly extolled democracy we still have much to learn from other countries in the matter of taking our pleasures sanely.

A DISGUSTED RESIDENT.

Rye, N. Y., June 27, 1921.

True to Type

(From The Philadelphia Inquirer)

Of the hundred or so young women who are graduated from Radcliffe College practically all have chosen their future work. Their tastes are various, but about a third of them intend to teach. Plainly the new woman is not altogether different from the old.

Four, it is worth noting, are "preparing for early marriage." Perhaps others who do not admit it have the same purpose. There has been much discussion as to the effect of a college education upon matrimony, but it has never been shown it is discouraging.

Hard Put to It

(From The Kansas City Times)

The German imperialists under the leadership of Hindenburg have been celebrating the return of the victorious German army from Paris in 1871. That's going a long way back to find something to celebrate.

The Conning Tower

HALSTED & ROBEY

(As John V. A. Weaver thinks Carl Sandburg might have written "Frankie and Johnnie Were Sweethearts."

Oh, what a night for a murder!
Kisses come, kisses go;
A wind blows the swinging doors of the saloon at the corner of Halsted and Robey,
a wind starts a song and never gets tired:
"He was my man
He done me wrong."
What did I care how many black lamps he gave me?
What did I care how many broads he made?
Only that Alice Blye, with her ways sofe as plumbers' putty, with her lies like excuses a janitor gives, why did she take him away?
The door flops, the wind sings,
"He was my man
He done me wrong."
Oh
What a night
For a murder!

Seriously is the word we use to describe how we are considering selling fight seats for $4.50 each at our dining room window. You can't see Jersey City from it, but it's in the shade and you save at least 50c.

Famed Trio Missing; Foul Play Feared

There's one thing, Boss, that makes me sorry,
There's nothing by Freckles, Irwin, and Morrie.
Readers from Kennebunk* to Berwyn†
Want stuff by Morrie, Freckles, and Irwin.
Breakfast tastes punk, and everything heckles,
Without any Irwin, Morrie, and Freckles.

PAULUS.

* Maine
† Pennsylvania

There will be 700 writers to chronicle the amicable fisticuffing; but our guess is that the gallant 200 at Reno in 1911 turned out more junk, blab, and splosh, before and during the fight, than the 700 are doing and will do.

TO A WIFE ABROAD

Go back, I pray, to England,
Eschew the red romance
You say you find. Ah, leave behind
The lures of Paris, France!
Return, I beg, to Britain,
O legal wedded mate,
That glorious spot with which we've got
A 2-cent postal rate.

Nominations for the world's most inconspicuous man closed last night when G. S. K.'s selection, the loser of the first preliminary bout next Saturday, was chosen by acclamation.

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPYS

June 28—Early up, and to the office, and at various petty tasks, and had luncheon with Mistress Sophia, and back to my desk and finished my stint and Janet come to visit me and I drove her uptown in my petrol-waggon, and it come on to rain, a great storm, very dark and beautiful. So with S. Rowe and A. Samuels to dinner, and thenafter to a cinema show, The Old Nest, which wearied me with its sentimentality; forasmuch as I could not see why the mother, of apparent capability, should fold her hands and say, Life is ended, because her children had left home. Why, methought, not go to visit one of them? Met J. Hutchison with Mistress Julia Farnham, and they gave me a beaker of frosted chocolate, and so home and to-bed.

29—Up by times, and wrote my daily letter to my wife, and greatly torn between telling her I am having a merry time, lest she think I do have it but in her absence; and telling her I am having a sad and lonely time of it, lest, in pity for me, she return at once. So told her the truth. To the office for a time, and so to Mistress Lola Fisher's and prayed her to go with me to dinner, which she did, with a fair enough grace.

We quarrel a little with the Carthage paper headline, as shown in the movie The Old Nest. A Carthaginian becomes Attorney General, and the headline, as we recall it, is "Carthage Citizen Highly Honored." Now this not only has a passive verb,—against the rule on some copy desks,—but also words overlong. The head probably would be "Town Boy Gets Plum."

Here Are Words We Agree With

Sir: I may be pardoned for saying a word about the prepositional ending, because it is a subject I have given a great deal of thought to. I never could see anything awkward about the construction; 'twas not spurned by either Stevenson or Pater, and theirs are names to conjure with. When you come to defend it in your column, however, you know in advance what you're up against. Immediately the purists are heard from. (Perhaps I should have inclosed the word "purists" in quotes; it is inaccurate, but it is the name they commonly go by.) Strangely enough, they will defend the split infinitive, yield to the iconoclasts in the dogma that usage is the law of language and commit a thousand other indecencies, while the prepositional termination is the only crime they shrink from.

ELENOR LINDLAY MURRAY.

Testimonial candor from an advertisement in the Washington National Tribune: "Mr. J. H. Crittenden, Racine, Ohio, writes: 'HINK-O-LAX has done wonders for me. I had no idea my liver was out of order, but after using HINK-O-LAX a short time I then knew it was.'"

THE OLD-LINE AD-MAN SPEAKS:

Persian orange for kick display;
List to the song of the worldly-wise:
The fruit I love is a fat O. K.
Bother the Caslon, cool and gray,
And fool-finesse with the plates and dies—
Persian orange for kick display.
For the the art-rough, blithe and gay
Is the cup that cheers and beautifies;
The fruit I love is a fat O. K.
Forget the thrill of the field survey,
Good will and name to capitalize!
Persian orange for kick display!
What if the copy its thousands sway?
The public reads and the public buys;
The fruit I love is a fat O. K.
Ho, Watchman, what of your mashie play?
Slap and cap and italicize;
Persian orange for kick display,
The fruit I love is a fat O. K.

L. E. F.

Pollyanna thought for hot weather: Well, it's better than no weather at all.

F. P. A.

STILL LOOKING FOR THE SELF-STARTER

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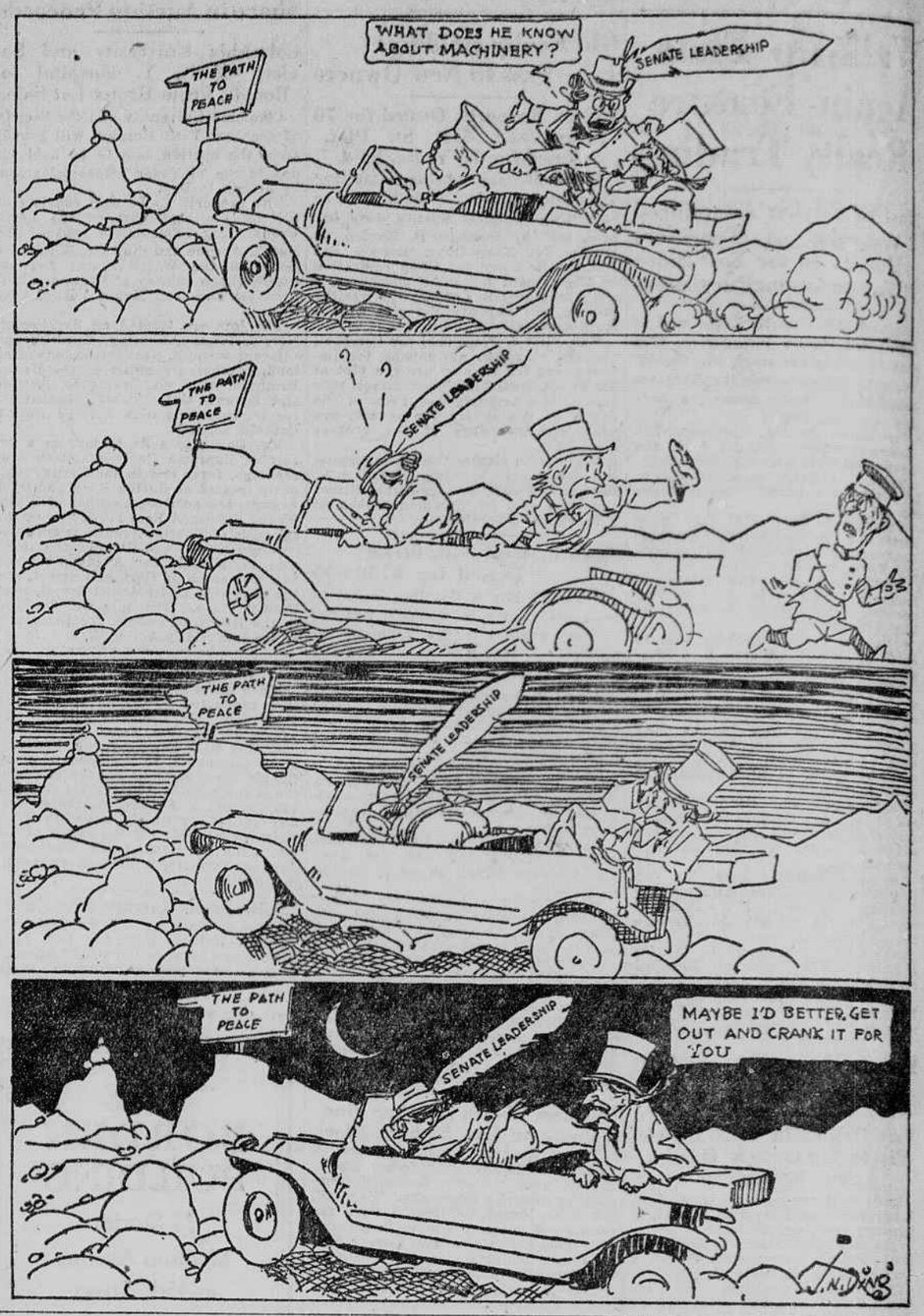

South Africa's Attitude

Friendly Relations With America Paramount Consideration, Says General Smuts, Discussing Anglo-Japanese Alliance

[The subjoined excerpt is taken from The Cape Times (Cape Town) report of the speech of General Smuts to the South African Assembly on May 20, shortly before his departure for the conference of prime ministers in London.]

The question of the foreign policy of the empire in its larger aspect may seem to be a question very far away from us here in South Africa, and yet to my mind there is nothing, even from the point of view of South Africa, from our own domestic point of view to-day in the world, more important than the foreign policy of the British Empire. It affects us vitally. It affects us in our daily lives, it affects us in the marketing of our produce, and it affects us in all our industrial activities. That is why I say that where a question of this kind is discussed in the empire by the highest body existing in the British Empire I think that South Africa should be represented there and should present her point of view.

What is our point of view? Our point of view is that what is to-day wanted, above all else in the world, is peace. The world wants it; we want it here in South Africa; and the British Empire wants it, perhaps more than any other combination or group of states in the world. Unless we have peace, then the future outlook for all of us is very dark indeed. Peace is our greatest requirement, our greatest desideratum, and the voice of South Africa, as far as I am concerned at the next conference, will go entirely in the direction of working to the utmost of our power for the securing of a real world peace.

The Japanese Treaty

The second question we shall have to consider at the conference is the renewal of the Japanese treaty. That does not affect us directly here. It is a Pacific question. It affects very largely those parts of the British Empire which border on the Pacific—that is, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. To us it seems a far-away question, and yet it is more than that, and it does affect us to some extent.

I suppose we have all read with great interest the speech by Mr. Hughes, the Prime Minister of Australia, which he made some months ago in regard to this question. He said it was in the interests of Australia to renew this treaty on certain conditions. In the first place, she wanted to safeguard her white policy. In the second place, she was very anxious that no offence should be given to America, and Mr. Hughes said that, subject to these conditions being fulfilled—namely, that the renewed treaty should be satisfactory to Australia from the point of view of her white policy, and satisfactory to America also—he was in favor of its renewal.

There is no doubt that the position all over the world has changed vitally and fundamentally since 1902, when the treaty was concluded. Conditions have changed completely, and I suppose if it was a question of entering into a new treaty to-day there would be little hesitation as to what conclusions the British Empire would come to; but it is the case of a treaty which was concluded many years ago, and which was renewed several times, and either the renewal or continuation of which now must raise very great questions indeed.

I have said world conditions have altered. Since the treaty was entered into Russia has disappeared as a trade power, and Germany also, for the time being. The position of Japan in the East has altered completely. She has a great position now in China, Siberia, and other parts, too. From a larger point of view also there is no doubt that since 1902 the friction between Japan and the western states of America has also increased, so that from all these points of view honorable members will be able to see how very intricate the whole question is.

Co-operation

What I would say in regard to the renewal of this treaty is that, to my mind, the paramount consideration that we ought to keep before us in the future, and in the very difficult times lying ahead of the world, is that it is essential, so far as possible, to secure understanding and co-operation between the British Empire and the U. S. A. I consider that the second essential and cardinal principle of our foreign policy.

In the first place, as I have said, I consider it necessary not to go in for any policy of antagonism on the Continent of Europe, but for a policy of peace; and in the second place I think, from a world point of view, the essential policy for the British Empire is to work with America to secure her co-operation, and in that way to go forward in the very difficult world task that lies before our government.

Mr. Beyers: What about the fleet America is building?

General Smuts: One thing I am certain of is that that fleet is not being built for use against the British Empire. There is no doubt in my mind that, whomever she is building it against, it is not against the British Empire or any part of that empire. To my mind, when I look at the question as a whole, and the interests for which we stand in the world, it seems to me vital that every effort should be made for us to keep in touch, sympathy and contact with the great American Republic.

A great and substantial portion of the British Empire adjoins the U. S. A., and is working in friendly relationship with those states. From whatever viewpoint we consider the matter, whether merely from our interests as an empire or from the point of view of European civilization as a whole, I think there is no doubt we should try and work with America and remove all grounds for friction and misunderstanding with her, and this treaty I regard as subject to that consideration. I agree that no renewal should take place unless we can satisfy America by the form of the treaty that no harm to her interests can follow its renewal.

More Expensive Now

(From The Cleveland Plain Dealer)

In 1681 the entire province of New Jersey was offered for sale in England for $25,000. Now look at the cost of a single New Jersey prizefight!

Industrial Art Handicap

American Designers Competing With Duty-Free Imports

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have read with great interest in this morning's Tribune Carter Field's timely article upon the tariff question. As usual, The Tribune is keenly alive to topics of greatest importance to the welfare of our country.

May I call to your attention a much neglected field where the tariff would do well to operate? Many people are seeking to promote American industrial art. Vocational schools have been opened. Classes in private schools are crowded with eager pupils. Yet when these same pupils, men and women, offer their work for sale they discover that the market is flooded with "foreign sketches," from anywhere and everywhere, that have been brought into the country free of duty and sold at prices with which an American designer cannot compete, especially at the present rate of exchange abroad.

To the lay mind it seems absurd to promote an art or industry well worth developing and then to fail in protecting the American designer. He may quite justly wonder why he was permitted to enter a profession which will not pay him as it should.

IDA E. WHITE,
Recording Secretary, Washington Heights Chapter, D. A. R.
New York, June 27, 1921.

Disease of "the Bad Old Days"

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Attention is called to an article by Dr. Joseph L. Miller, of Chicago, in The Journal of the American Medical Association, dated June 11, 1921, stating that the cases of knotty liver, which is premature old age, have decreased. This was the common cause of death of alcoholics in the bad old days. It was commonly stated that this disease was caused in five out of six cases by alcohol, which brought on an early death. This seems now to have been a low estimate.

Dr. Miller shows a precipitate decrease in Cook County Hospital, Chicago. With an average of 147 cases for each of seven years previous to 1918, there were only 19 cases in 1920, a decrease of 88 per cent. Dr. Miller states that, experimentally, any poison which will "destroy the liver cell, such as alcohol, chloroform, phosphorus, etc." will produce knotty liver, or "portal cirrhosis," in man, but these figures show this disease is "associated largely and possibly entirely with the use of alcohol in this country." X. Y. Z.

Baltimore, Md., June 28, 1921.

The Real Drawback

(From The Toledo Blade)

Secretary Mellon makes out a good case for increasing the number of revenue collectors. In ten years the number of taxpayers making returns to the government has increased from 600,000 to 9,000,000, and the number of transactions in the revenue offices has grown to 15,000,000 annually. But there is always this trouble about establishing new governmental offices—once they have been organized and officers appointed to fill them they stick forever. It is easier to awaken a sleeping volcano into activity than to abolish a Federal job.